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especially important as regards the productions of the Government scientific experts. Their results may lie in the hands of the Government printer for two or three years before publication, a state of affairs which should not exist in a progressive country. The progress of science is rapid, and our bureaus at Washington should be able to publish their results as soon as they are prepared for the press.

—A COLLECTION of living monkeys and snakes was recently seized by the New York Custom House authorities and sold by auction for the nonpayment of duty. It is strange that our tariff law has not yet been corrected so as to permit the importation of such objects free. They contribute to the educational material of the country both while living and after their death, and it would seem that the scientific work of the country should command sufficient respect to enable such a change to be made. Of course the Committee of Ways and Means has no especial desire to stimulate the growth of the native species of monkeys and snakes by levying duties on foreign species. We venture the assertion that the native production of these articles will not be seriously affected by acts of Congress.

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## RECENT LITERATURE.

**Experimental Morphology.**<sup>1</sup>—It is a pleasure to learn that the activity of the new German school of "Entwicklungsmechanik" has stimulated so happy a response on this side of the ocean as that in the book before us. The author's aim is to collect, in order, the observations and results thus far gained by the experimental method as applied to the understanding of "*why*" organisms develop as they do. Knowing, then, what has been attempted, we may more clearly advance with definite purpose and prospect of success.

The present volume treats of the effects of outside reagents upon *protoplasm*: three following volumes are promised, to treat in the same way, *growth*, *cell-division*, *differentiation*.

Such agents are somewhat arbitrarily divided into the following heads of chapters: chemical agents; varying moisture; density of the medium; molar agents; gravity; electricity; light; heat.

The chapter on chemical agents considers the change in motion, change in metabolism or the death of organisms acted upon by various

<sup>1</sup> Experimental Morphology. Charles Benedict Davenport. Woodcut, pps. 280. The Macmillan Co., 66 Fifth Ave., New York. Price, \$2.60.

poisons and other chemical bodies. The question of acclimatization to chemical agents is especially well treated and partly based upon the author's own work.

Though essentially a compilation of facts, and hence not always free from the criticism of introducing statements upon doubtful authority—especially when one considers the author's great regard for accuracy and the comprehensiveness of knowledge necessary in experimental work—there is much that is original in the summarization at the end of chapters. Original work by the author is also included, and illustrated by some of the simple, but effective, diagrams as those showing the movements of *amœbæ* in light and in darkness.

The author's experiments upon *amœba* lead him to differ from Verworn and to decide that this lowly organized creature is strongly affected by light.

Such fundamental work is of the greatest interest to all biologists, whether devoted to botany or zoology, morphology or physiology, chemical or physical sides of life phenomena, and this chronicle of it should be of great interest to all who have escaped, or outgrown, that unfortunate myopia that too often limits the interests of the specialist. That the book is called a morphology is misleading as to its content: scientific physiology, without dependence upon medical instruction, would more fitly characterize it.

We trust the book will find the appreciation it so well deserves, both among specialists and among the intelligent laity.—E. A. A.

**Oceanic Ichthyology.**<sup>2</sup>—This work, issued as a special Bulletin in quarto form by the U. S. National Museum, is the joint production of Messrs. G. Brown Goode and Tarleton H. Bean. Its preparation has extended over a number of years. As first planned it was to include only the oceanic fishes on the east coast of North America. As new material was acquired by the Museum from collections made by the steamers *Blake*, *Albatross* and *Fish Hawk*, and from other dredgings of the U. S. Fish Commission, the work expanded to its present form, and it now stands as a "compendium and summary of existing knowledge in regard to Oceanic Ichthyology." The discussion takes the form of descriptions of all forms of pelagic and deep sea fishes found in the seas of the world, special prominence being given to those of the Atlantic Ocean.

<sup>2</sup> *Oceanic Ichthyology: A Treatise on Deep-Sea and Pelagic Fishes of the World, with an Atlas containing 417 Figures.* By G. Brown Goode and Tarleton H. Bean. Special Bull. U. S. Natl. Mus., Washington, 1895.